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State Congressional Races

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Rep. Broomfield Faces Tough Foe in 18th District

(Editor's Note: This is the last in a six-part series by The Press' Washington bureau analyzing congressional races in Michigan.)

By Paul Miltich

Democratic spillover from Wayne county is threatening to cave the roof in on Rep. William S. Broomfield in populous Oakland county, Michigan's Eighteenth congressional district.

This is a marginal district Republican leaders stoutly insist they'll hold. Some Democrats say two-term Republican Broomfield will go back to Washington only to pack his bags and clear out his office.

In neighboring Wayne county, with its six congressional districts, there's no real contest for any Democratic incumbent but Rep. Martha Griffiths of the Seventeenth district.

Ex-Colonel Is Foe

In Oakland county, incumbent Broomfield is locked in a tight battle with James G. Kellis, 42, of Berkley, a retired airforce colonel and a University of Detroit political science lecturer on leave for the campaign.

Because of his background, Kellis is a formidable opponent. A combat flyer in World war II, he served the office of strategic services by dropping behind enemy lines in the Balkans and China. After the war, he did espionage work for the central intelligence agency. Leaving CIA in 1953, he did a three-year stint as a staff officer with NATO in Europe.

Kellis says he retired last May after 24 years' military service because of dissatisfaction with the Eisenhower administration's record in the defense and intelligence fields. He got into the Eighteenth district congressional race at the urging of Rep. John Platnick (D-Minn.).

township last year, is out to work the same surprise on three-term Martha W. Griffiths in the Seventeenth congressional district (Wayne county).

He says he will expose Mrs. Griffith's record and show her up as voting the Americans for Democratic Action line. Mrs. Griffiths retorts that she has one of the highest ratings with

the right-wing Americans for constitutional action of any Democrat in congress.

The summing up: Mrs. Griffiths, who took 63 per cent of the total district vote in 1958, should win by 55 per cent or better this time.

Ready to Concede

In the five other Wayne county districts, all Republican challengers but one have virtually conceded the election.

In the Fourteenth, Mrs. Lois Nair travels the streets in her trailer and keeps hammering away at veteran Democratic Rep. Louis Rabaut. Rabaut will win a thirteenth term with 60 per cent or more of the total vote.

Rep. John Dingell is opposed by Republican Robert J. Robbins in the Fifteenth district; Rep. John Lesinski of Dearborn by Lee H. Clark in the Sixteenth; Rep. Charles C. Diggs, jr., by Robert B. Blackwell in the Thirteenth; Rep. Thaddeus M. Machrowicz by perennial Walter Czarnecki in the First district.

Dingell will be returned to congress for a third full term added to a one-year stint after his father's death; Lesinski, for a sixth term; Diggs, for a fourth and Machrowicz, for his sixth.

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Has Much Experience

Broomfield, 38-year-old Royal Oak native, offers the voters 12 years' lawmaking experience as a state representative, state senator and congressman. He was an insurance underwriter before entering congress.

Broomfield has a big plus going for him. Oakland is the best-organized GOP county in the state, according to State Republican Chairman Lawrence Lindemer.

A new broom wielded by Kellis and others has swept out the old Oakland county Democratic committee, including Chairman Carlos Richardson. Old-line Democrats say the CIO has taken over the committee but Kellis and the new county chairman, Southfield Attorney James Ginn, deny this. Kellis says the new organization is "a good one."

Has OK of Union

Indorsed by the AFL-CIO in the primary, Kellis won the Democratic nomination in a six-man race. The AFL-CIO council interviewed the primary candidates, indorsed Kellis 34 to 14.

Elected as an Eisenhower Republican, Broomfield appeals to independents and Democrats with a voting record that departs occasionally from the party line. He refuses to debate foreign policy and defense with Kellis. He says United States defense is well-balanced, and the GOP has kept the peace.

Kellis calls the Republicans "custodians of Democratic advances." O liberal, he says he believes in a balanced budget. Spending programs in the Democratic platform will be paid for through greater revenues produced by swifter economic growth, he argues. He also contends the Eisenhower administration is wasting money in the defense and state departments and CIA.

Broomfield Is Favorite

The summing up: Broomfield must be rated the favorite, but he could be in trouble. If he wins, it may be a squeaker despite GOP predictions. He'll top his 1958 percentage of 52.6.

Republican Richard E. Morell, who pulled an upset by winning the supervisor's race in predominantly Democratic Redford